

Amendments to the Claims:

11. (original): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier, the steps comprising:

- a) encrypting a message with the use of a scrambling function;
- b) choosing an information carrier comprising a set of pixels;
- c) coding the shade or color level of said encrypted message using a set of pixels in said information carrier;
- d) modifying said shade or color level of each of said pixels of said coded message by one of a plurality of values; and
- e) transmitting said modified message.

12. (currently amended): A method of steganographically hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

- encrypting a message;
- modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;
- scaling said modulated encrypted message; and
- adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier.

13. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

- encrypting a message;
- modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;
- scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The
~~method of claim 12~~, wherein the information carrier comprises a video frame.

14. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier
comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The
~~method of claim 12~~, wherein said scaling scales the brightness level of the modulated
encrypted message.

15. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier
comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The
~~method of claim 12~~, wherein said encrypting provides an encrypted message comprising
a spatially uniform noisy message.

16. (currently amended): A method of hiding a message in an information carrier comprising:

encrypting a message;

modulating the encrypted message with predetermined data;

scaling said modulated encrypted message; and

adding the scaled, modulated encrypted message to the information carrier, The
~~method of claim 12,~~ wherein the predetermined data comprises an N-bit identification word.